

Corruption charges against officials of CIL 1862. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 241 and its supplementaries given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th December, 1999 and state:

(a) whether an enquiry has been conducted into the corruption charges against some officers of the Coal India Limited which were brought to his notice *vide* a letter dated 10th February, 2000 from a M.P.;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) if not, the causes of delay in enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Member of Parliament had, in his letter dated 10-2-2000 brought to the notice of the Ministry of Coal certain allegations against North Eastern Coalfields (NEC), a unit directly under the control of Coal India Limited. The allegations were examined. A statement containing the allegations and the information in respect of each of the allegations is given below:

Allegation	Information
A case of railway loading of coal by NEC in excess of the declared quantity was detected in June, 1999.	Weighment of coal in railway wagons is duly certified by the railway authorities. During a check in June, 1999, it was alleged that excess coal was found. At the orders of the Court re-weighment of the same rake was done but no excess coal was found.
Despatch of superior quality coal against sale of inferior quality has led to heavy losses in NEC.	In NEC, there is no case of sale of high grade coal after showing it as low grade.

Allegation	Information
Lubricants for NEC are being purchased from a private party paying higher price, whereas the earlier practice was to purchase lubricants from Assam Oil Company, Digboi at cheap price.	Small quantities of lubricants were purchased from a private party on trial basis at a price cheaper than the price of Assam Oil Division. At present NEC is purchasing lubricants from M/s Bharat Shell and IBP at a cheaper price than Assam Oil Division.
NEC is spending more than Rs. 18 lakhs a year in hiring payloaders instead of purchasing one payload at the present price of Rs. 20 lakhs.	NEC has its own payloaders for loading of coal into tippers. Only in emergency situations payloaders are hired from private contractors.
No exploration during the last 12 years for opencast mining is Simsong Project at Tura is being done though the project was executed at a cost of Rs. 12 crores.	The exploratory scheme for Simsong was not for opencast mining but for underground mining. The project was stalled since the kidnapping of an officer of NEC concerned with the project in April, 1999 for a period of 52 days. The scheme is now slated to be revised.

Scrapping of coal modernisation project

1863. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item entitled "World Bank scraps Rs. 20,000 crores coal modernization project of CIL";

(b) whether the coal demand projection has been slashed in mid-term appraisal of the Ninth Plan, as reported; and